MEDICAL ETHICS WITH ELEMENTS OF PHILOSOPHY

1. IMPRINT

Academic Year	2026/2027
Department	Faculty of Dental Medicine
Field of study	English Dentistry Division
Main scientific discipline	Medical sciences
Study Profile	General academic
Level of studies	Uniform MSc
Form of studies	Full time
Type of module / course	Optional
Form of verification of learning outcomes	Completion
Educational Unit / Educational Units	Department of Medical Ethics and Law 00-581 Warsaw 14a Litewska St. tel. +48 22 116 92 34 e-mail: zaklad-bioetyki@wum.edu.pl
Head of Educational Unit / / Heads of Educational Units	Tomasz Pasierski, MD, PhD
Course coordinator	Ewa Skrzypek, MD, PhD ewa.skrzypek@wum.edu.pl
Person responsible for syllabus	Ewa Skrzypek, MD, PhD ewa.skrzypek@wum.edu.pl
Teachers	Ewa Skrzypek, MD, PhD ewa.skrzypek@wum.edu.pl

2. BASIC INFORMATION

Year and semester of studies	1st year, 2nd semester	**Number of ECTS credits**	2.00

FORMS OF CLASSES **Contacting hours with academic teacher**	**Number of hours**	**ECTS credits calculation**
Lecture (L)	20	0.8
Seminar (S)	20	0.8
Classes (C)		
e-learning (e-L)		
Practical classes (PC)		
Work placement (WP)		
Unassisted student's work		
Preparation for classes and completions	10	0.4

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

O1	Understanding of main trends in human philosophy, with particular attention to elements of importance in the profession of a dentist.
O2	Identification of the most important ethical problems of medical professions, with particular attention to the profession of a dentist.
O3	Raising student's awareness to the presence of dilemmas of axiological and existential nature which are of importance to the health condition of the contemporary man.

4. STANDARDS OF LEARNING – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS OF LEARNING

Code and number of the effect of learning in accordance with standards of learning	**Effects in the field of:**
Knowledge – Graduate* knows and understands:	
D.W1.	the notions of health and disease, the impact of the social environment (family, social networks), as well as socio-cultural circumstances (background, social status, faith, nationality, ethnic group) on the patient's health

Skills– Graduate* is able to:	
D.U1.	consider the patient's subjective needs and expectations arising from socio-cultural conditions in the therapeutic process
D.U2.	select treatment that reduces social consequences for the patient
D.U12.	demonstrate responsibility for improving their qualifications and passing on knowledge to others

** In appendix to the Regulation of Minister of Science and Higher education from 26th of July 2019 „graduate", not student is mentioned.*

5. ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF LEARNING *(non-compulsory)*

Number of effect of learning	**Effects in the fields of:**
Knowledge – Graduate knows and understands:	
W1	-
Skills– Graduate is able to:	
U1	-
Social Competencies – Graduate is ready for:	
K1	-

6. CLASSES

Form of class	**Class contents**	**Effects of Learning**
Lectures	**L1 – Lecture 1** – Inaugural lecture. Introduction to the contents of the subject. Organization of classes.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12
	L2 – Lecture 2 – Short history of philosophy and ethics in dentistry. Changes over ages. Bioethics versus traditional medical ethics.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	L3 – Lecture 3 - What is Plato's cave? Knowledge against senses.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	L4 – Lecture 4 – Philosophy of morality. Everyday ethics. The most interesting ethicists throughout history.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	L5 – Lecture 5 – The importance of ethics as a science that is, why it is worthwhile to be good and comport oneself in a ethical way. Rational and irrational approach.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.

Seminars	**L6 - Lecture 6** – Professional ethics of the dentist. Non-ethical practices in dentistry. Why do the doctor and the patient need an informed consent of the patient? Patient's autonomy.	D.W1, D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	L7 – Lecture 7 – What are ethical codes? Comparison of different ethical codes in medical professions.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	L8 – Lecture 8 – Artificial intelligence and ethics in dentistry. Summary of the material.	D.W1., D.U2., D.U2., D.U12.
	S1 – Seminar 1 – What does a dentist need medical ethics and philosophy for?	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	S2 – Seminar 2 – Most interesting philosophers and their influence on the reality of today. Philosophy of everyday life.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	S3 – Seminar 3 – Presentation of Plato's cave of the XXI century.	D.W1., D.U1, D.U2., D.U12.
	S4 – Seminar 4 – Everyday ethics of the dentist.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2. D.U12.
	S5 – Seminar 5 – What is ethical behaviour? Ethics versus morality. How to seek solutions to different ethical dilemmas. Medical professionalism.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	S6 – Seminar 6 – Solving cases describing different professional ethical problems faced by the dentist.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	S7 – Seminar 7 – Development of one's own ethical code by the dentist.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.
	S8 – Seminar 8 – Assessment of the project in groups.	D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.

7. LITERATURE

Obligatory

1. All obligatory reading materials will be provided by the lecturer.

Supplementary

1. Curnow T.: *Philosophy for everyday life. A practical guide,* Icon Books Ltd. 2012.
2. *Dental Ethics Manual,* collective work, FDI World Dental Federation 2007.
3. Gibson P.: *Philosophy,* Sirius 2019.
4. Kleinman P.: *Philosophy 101 from Plato and Socrates to ethics and metaphysics, an essential primer on the history of thought,* Adams Media 2013.
5. Law S.: *Philosophy,* DK 2007.
6. Matthews G. W.: *Philosophical Ethics. A guidebook for beginners,* 2020.
7. Patton M. F., Cannon K.: *The cartoon introduction to philosophy,* New York 2015.
8. *Philosophy. Big ideas simply explained,* collective work, DK 2024.
9. Thomson J.: *Moni Philosophy. A Small Book of Big Ideas,* Wildfire 2021.
10. Tisha A., Tejeshwini M., Kumar K.: *Ethics in dentistry. Principles of professional conduct,* Lambert Academic Publishing 2025.
11. Williams B.: *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy,* Routledge Taylor & Francis Group 2006.

8. VERIFYING THE EFFECT OF LEARNING

Code of the course effect of learning	Ways of verifying the effect of learning	Completion criterion
D.W1., D.U1., D.U2., D.U12.	Continuous assessment in the course of classes; attendance; passing the final project in groups	**Form of receiving credit – COMPLETION** Active participation in classes; attendance; passing the final project in groups

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Classes are held according to the schedule provided by the Dean's Office.
2. The person responsible for teaching the course – Course Coordinator: Dr Ewa Skrzypek, MD, PhD; e-mail: ewa.skrzypek@wum.edu.pl
3. The use of mobile phones and any other recording devices during classes is strictly prohibited.
4. Students are required to arrive for classes punctually.
5. Attendance at all classes is compulsory. In order to justify an absence from classes, the student is required to notify the course coordinator by e-mail or in writing no later than three working days after the day on which the classes took place. Submission of a justification after this deadline is permitted only in serious exceptional circumstances where the student is unable to provide the document for justified reasons; in such cases, the justification must be submitted immediately after those circumstances have ceased. A medical certificate justifying the absence must be submitted to the course coordinator within 7 (seven) working days from the date on which the certificate was issued. In the case of any absence, the method of making up for the missed work must be agreed with the course coordinator.
6. The remaining rules governing participation in classes and the final completion of the course will be presented and discussed in detail during the first class.
7. Students who passed the course in previous years and wish to have it recognised in the current academic year must obtain the Dean's approval for the transfer of the course credit. If such approval is granted, a copy of the approval together with an official transcript from the Dean's Office of the relevant university and from the academic year in which the course was completed must be sent to ewa.skrzypek@wum.edu.pl no later than two weeks before the start of classes. Failure to submit these documents within the specified time limit will require the student to complete the course again and pass it in accordance with the syllabus.
8. The course is passed on the basis of:
a. attendance at classes; three or more absences preclude passing the course.
b. active participation in classes.
c. obtaining credit from the final project in groups.
9. In the event of failure to pass, the Student is entitled to two deadlines for resit passes.
10. In order to justify failure to take the assessment on the scheduled date, the student is required to notify the course coordinator by e-mail or in writing no later than three working days after that date. Submission of a justification after this deadline is permitted only in serious exceptional circumstances where the student is unable to provide the document for justified reasons; in such cases, the justification must be submitted immediately after those circumstances have ceased. A medical certificate justifying the absence must be submitted to the course coordinator within 7 (seven) working days from the date on which the certificate was issued.
11. Failure to justify absence from the scheduled assessment constitutes grounds for failing the course on that assessment date. In such a case, the student is entitled only to two re-sit assessment dates. If the absence from the assessment is properly justified as described above, the student retains the right to a first assessment on a date and in a form determined by the course coordinator, followed, if necessary, by two additional re-sit assessment dates on dates and in forms determined by the course coordinator.
12. The Dean may grant permission for a committee assessment if justified objections are raised regarding the conduct of the final re-sit assessment.
13. The programme of classes may be subject to minor modifications.

14. Consultation hours with the course coordinator, where necessary, are arranged individually following prior contact by e-mail or in person during classes.
15. In matters not regulated above, the provisions of the current Study Regulations of the Medical University of Warsaw shall apply. Every student is required to familiarise themselves with these Regulations before the start of classes.

Medical University of Warsaw has property rights, including copyright, to the syllabus. The syllabus may be used for educational purposes at the MUW only. Using of the syllabus for other purposes requires consent of the MUW.

ATTENTION

The final 10 minutes of the last class of the block/semester/year should be allotted for students to fill out the Survey of Evaluation of Classes and Academic Teachers